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DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

IJP: Special Differences

1990 is my seventh year as Executive Director of the International Psychosomatics Institute (IPI) which acts as an umbrella organization in the field of psychosomatics. Under my direction as Managing Director, the International Journal of Psychosomatics (IJP) became its official publication: What is special and different about IJP?

First of all, a look at the IJP masthead on the inside cover shows that the Division Editors now fall into 36 specialized categories that range from Allergy and Clinical Immunology through Stress and Temporomandibular Joint Syndrome. More importantly, perhaps, this arrangement offers a non-threatening, cordial meeting place for health professionals of differing perspectives as manifested in the earned academic degrees: M.D., D.O., D.D.S., Ph.D., Ed.D., Sc.D., Psy.D., D.C., and so on.

Another important distinction is in its INTERNATIONAL Consulting Editors who represent the world-wide professional community: Australia and Austria to Africa and America. Especially to be noted is that it is has been our policy — even before Perestroika and Glastnost — to support contributors from iron and bamboo curtain countries: Czechoslovakia; Poland; Yugoslavia; U.S.S.R.; and China.

Our diverse contributors — unfamiliar as well as well-known names — are assured a place for unusual and worthy relevant articles that otherwise are not considered by traditional publishers. The modalities employed by our authors may be hypnosis, meditation, and acupuncture besides experimental drugs; and may deal with subjects as diverse and controversial as ESP and levitation, biofeedback and yoga, anorexia and bulimia, aging and nutrition, dental flare-ups and antibiotics, and post-traumatic-stress-disorders.

IJP is abstracted in: Behavioral Medicine Abstracts; Biological Abstracts; Index Medicus; Index to Dental Literature; and Psychological Abstracts. And these services assure that the unusual published information is widely circulated and accessible. Moreover, IJP has an official exchange with a spectrum of quality publications such as Archaeus, New England Journal of Medicine, and Chinese Medical Journal.

Having pointed up IJP's several strong points of departure from standard journals, what else is there to say? From a business point, the modest annual dues ($40/year) barely covers costs — printing, mailings to subscribers and referees. We are reluctant to dun (unprofessional?) those members who haven't remembered to pay their dues. Won't you please help maintain the excellence of the Journal by early payment? Thank you.

M. Lawrence Furst, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Executive Director

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THE COVER: "Methuselah"

Of course, we do not really have a photograph of the patriarch Methuselah. The narrative in the Bible plainly ascribes lives far longer than what is held to be the present extreme limit. Many ages in the Bible with respect to longevity are given in geneological lists, and relate to the patriarchs before Abraham.

The Bible says Methuselah lived 969 years (Gen. 5.21-27). Some critics hold that the ancients computed time differently; e.g., using a lunar rather than a solar calendar. Others suggest that their longevity may be due to their food which was then fitter for the prolongation of life. Interestingly, there is no mention made of exercise.

M.L.F.

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